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November 7, 2014

Dear Sirs,

This letter is to my express my grave concern as to the potential disastrous impact of reopening the gold mine. Water is critical to the operation of our clinic. Any disruption to the water supply to our well, accidental or not, would be a total disaster for our staff as well as our patients. We simply cannot operate without a sustained, clean, dependable water source.

A disruption to our water supply would immediately put 35 people out of work and immediately curtail medical, dental, and mental health services for almost 4000 patients. Many of our patients are indigent, lower income, unemployed, disabled, and/or lacking in transportation. I can honestly say that without our clinic in full operation, many these patients will go without health care, as it would be extremely difficult if not impossible for them find an alternative provider for their medical care, dental treatment, and behavioral health needs.

The most highly impacted would be the folks who are most in need of integrated health care, in particular those with mental health challenges, disabilities, low or no income, and lack of transportation. These are <u>not</u> simply statistics we're dealing with here; these are human lives.

I am for the most part supportive of private enterprise and initiative, and I respect the rights of individuals to earn a living and make use of their resources, including their property. However, when the mine project brings with it the risk—even a small risk—of destroying access to much needed medical, dental, and mental health care for potentially thousands of needy patients, the disastrous consequences must be considered. On behalf of our clinic, I absolutely cannot support such a venture. The potential ramifications of the mine project are simply too impactful, too threatening, and too potential damaging to people's health to allow the project to move forward.

Respectfully,

Steve Weber

CEO Sierra Family Medical Clinic



WEBSITE: www.SIERRACLINIC.ORG